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Private Memorand

June 1850

Creek & Cherokee
Boundary Expedition

No 2

ACADEMY
NAT. SCI.
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Boundary Expedition between the Creek & Cherokee Indians under the Command of Lieut I. C. Woodruff Corps Topl Engrs U. S. Army

1850

No. 2 3

Wednesday June 12th Lieut Woodruff Mr Smith & three men arrived from Fort Smith. I received letters from Dr Arnott & Fanny Symington wrote to Sallie Roberts.

Thursday 13th Cloudy and warm we got our things together and pitched our tents on the west side of the Neosho opposite the Fort.

Friday 14th Flying clouds & warm

Saturday 15 th Clear & hot

Sunday 16 th Clear & hot I took a ride in the afternoon.

Monday 17th Cloudy in the morning clear in the afternoon hot I had all my things moved into Camp Dined with Capt Stevenson. slept for the first time in Camp

Tuesday 18th Clear & hot I wrote to Dr Arnott. The steamer P. H. White arrived with our men and stores. she stopped at the mouth of the Neosho

Wednesday 19th Cloudy & clear. a slight shower in the morning we all rode down to the steam boat and she went up the Verdegris and landed our men and stores

Thursday 20th Clear & hot

Friday 21st Clear Captain Potts arrived at noon. I visited the Ladies at the Fort

Saturday 22d Clear & hot

Sunday 23d Showery & hot

Monday 24th Clear & hot Capt Potts & I rode over to the Creek nation

Tuesday 25th Clear & Hot wrote to F Symington

Wednesday 26th Clear & hot recd a letter from Sallie Symington

Thursday 27th Clear & hot

Friday 28th clear & hot several of the officers took dinner with us

Saturday 29th Clear & hot I wrote to Aunt H Mr. Shaw & Lewis took dinner with us

Sunday 30th Clear & hot spent the afternoon at the Fort took tea with Dr Wills called on all the Officers families & bid them good bye we had a heavy blow & rain I remained there all night

Monday July 1st Clear packed our things and left camp Neosho and camped on the Verdagris at Davis ferry.

Tuesday 2d Clear ther at 3 P.M. 90°. left Camp about 10 a.m. had much trouble with the oxen camped near Browns Store eleven miles from the Fort in a pretty piece of place Mr. Shaw & C Lynde took tea & spent the night with us

Wednesday 3d. Clear with a fine breeze from the south left Camp at ¾ about 6 A.M. but did not go far before a tongue in one of the wagons broke which detained us some time however we managed to take it slowly and the wagons reached Council mission about 4 P.M. and we encamped on the edge of the timber this is 15 miles from our last Camp. Ther at 3 P.M 70°

Thursday 4th. Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 90 left camp not at 6 A.M. and encamped on a large Creek near Broken Arrow Square 9½ miles from our last camp the day being hot we went but very slow and encamped at 3 P.M.

Friday 5th Clear with a fine breese from the south Ther at 3 P.M.
left camp No 5 at 6 A.M. passed over a beautifull prarie and were detained some time having to pass some deep ravins Came into Camp on the prari at 3 P.M. having made but 8 1/2 miles
Saturday 6th Clear and very warm but little air stirring Ther at 3 P.M.
the cattle suffered much from heat one of the wagons broke but was soon repaired Capt Potts got a fall a fall down a steep bank and was considerably injured by the fall arrived in Camp at Jenny Smiths at noon ten miles from No 6
Left Camp No 6 at 5 A.M.
Sunday 7th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 92°
called to see some of our old Indian friends we were also visited by a number of Indian ladies acquaintances that we made last year. Judge

Hicks (Miss Jenny's father) & son spent the night with us and left this evening. numbers of Indians hung round the Camp all day and many of them were very anxious to go with us

Monday 8th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 90° fine breeze from the south left Camp No 7 at 6 A.M. we had to cut our way through a portion of timber which had been thrown down by a hurricane last fall we arrived at our old camp ground on the arkansas at the 3 hills a portion of the wagons were detained by one of them breaking J Smiths to Taylors 9 1/10 miles

Tuesday 9th Clear Ther 88° at 3 P.M. left Camp No 8 at 6 A.M. the first part of the road we had to pass over was rather bad and there were five upsets at 2 P.M. there was a

fine shower which cooled the
oxen we arrived on the bank
of the Arkansas opposite the
ford. Judge Hicks & his son we
met on the road and they returned
to camp with us and spent the
night From Taylors to ford 9 2/10 miles.
Wednesday 10th Clear Ther 92° at 3 P.M.
got the wagons over the river all
excepting ours the men were
making canoes fearing that we
could not cross without them
but we had no use for them
I wrote to Lillie. Sallie Roberts & Tom

Thursday 11th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 94°
very sultry but little air stirring
we got our wagons over the river
and left Camp No 9 at 8 A.M. and
encamped on a small branch
3 82/100 of a mile from the ford

Friday 12th Cloudy and some rain left Camp No 10 at 5½ A.M. and went over a rough and very hilly country most of which was covered with post Oak timber and encamped on a small branch 9 28/100 of a mile from No 10 being 13½ miles from the ford arrived in Camp at 1 P.M. had a fine shower in the afternoon after which the sun come ~~out~~ out hot got quite cold ~~in~~ the night
Saturday 13th Clear and very close left Camp No 11 at half past five passed over a hilly & rocky portion of country most of which was covered with post Oak timber a small portion of which was prarie. the day being hot we had to let the cattle take their time and arrived at the old dragoon Camp which was the site of our last Camp in the fall I felt quite sick and got

to my bed as soon as possible after taking some medicine This is 11 $^{08}/_{100}$ miles from our last Camp

Sunday 14th Clear and hot I dieted myself and the medicine opperated freely and towards night I felt quite well. I wrote to Dr. Arnott

Monday 15th Clear and hot I managed this morning to eat some breakfast left Camp No 12 at 5 1/2 A.M. I started ahead so as to be exposed in the sun as little as possible but as it was I had to ride some distance in the sun I was seized with a chill about 12 M after which I had considerable fever a violent pain in the head and back sick stomach &c

Our wagons arrived at this point

which is about ¼ of a mile from the last post of the line at 11 A.M. our Camp is situated on a high piece of prarie slopeing on all sides and it makes a beautifull Camp and commands a view of the country for many mile here were two large wild Turkeys brought into Camp I think they each would weight 18 lbs they have named this Camp Bald Eagle Mound)

Tuesday 16th Clear and hot I awoke this morning with someheadache passed a restless night my medicine opperated freely and I commenced taking Quinine felt no inclination to eat remained in bed most of the day

Wednesday 17th Flying Clouds towards evening looked much like rain

I feel pretty well took several doses of Quinine

Thursday 18th Cloudy most of the day I collected and pressed a number of plants I have a fine appetite plenty Fish and wild Turkeys are brought into Camp every day Shultz brought in a fawn Roach was lost in the evening after dark we commenced firing guns which brought him to Camp skinned 2 prarie wolves

Friday 19th Clear I rode out with Woodruff and took a look at the country & collected some plants mountain lime stone and red sandstone we found on the surface in many places. I wrote to Tom Lillie Sallie Robert Dr Arrott & Sallie Symington two of the men deserted Davis & Kelsey. started Childers & Peter Collins with the mail at sunrise

the Thermometer at 3 P.M. was 97° I think it the hotest day we have had this season Found the flies on the prarie very bad

Saturday 20th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 97°

Sunday 21st Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 97°
Woodruff & I took a ride and a bath in the morning

Monday 22d Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 96°
I skinned & prepared two Turkeys but found them both moulting

Tuesday 23d Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 97°
The party commenced working on the line. we were visited in the morning by a party of Delawares they consisted of three men a woman and a boy they were going on a Buffalo hunt

Wednesday 24th Clear this was decidedly the hottest day I have felt on the prairie the most of the day there was but little air stirring except in the afternoon it was from the North East but the air was hot at 3 P.M. the Ther was 100° the men hauled hay and made a stack so that we could have provin for our Cattle on our return in case the prairie should be burnt. set fire to the prairie near camp so as to have a crop of green grass

Thursday 25th Cl ~~cloudy~~ Ther at 3 P.M 85° there was a slight sprinkle of rain Capt Potts and I rode out to hunt a place suitable for our next camp we passed over a roling country ~~and~~ several large Creeks the crossing of which we found

quite difficult the banks being steep and rocky and water deep found old buffalo bones in different directions selected a spot to encamp and returned saw a few Turkies but did not get a shot at them.

Friday 25th Flying Clouds Ther at 3 P.M. 67° remained in Camp and arranged our things so as to have every thing in order to start tomorrow as Lieut W. finishes taking observations to night. Mr Brehew took several daguerreotypes. Made a cache of some of the pork

Saturday 27th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 87° moved from Camp No 13 left at 6 A.M. and after crossing numerous deep creeks and branches with banks almost perpendicular we arrived in Camp at 4 P.M. being but 7 miles on the line and eleven by the road travelled by the wagons. before daylight it rained heavily, blew, and was accompanied with severe thunder & lightning
Sunday 28th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 75° in the morning I started with Capt Potts to hunt for a site for our next Camp found it exceedingly difficult to cross the small creeks their banks being steep and on each side the brush was very thick and intermingled with grape vine and a tough

thorny vine which rendered it almost impossible to penetrate without the assistance of an ax. I felt much like having a chill having all those distressed feelings which proceede it. we returned to camp I took a bath and went to bed early but my headache continuing I took about 8 grs of blue mass slept scarcely any all night

Monday 29th. Cloudy Ther at 3 P.M. 88°. left Camp No 14 at 6 A.M. I awoke in the morning feeling much better took a little soaked cracker for my breakfast and took some Quinine rode as little as possible. felt comfortable all day. we arrived in Camp

at 4 P.M. being 7 miles from
our last Camp had some fine
fat venison brought into Camp
a buck, Doe & turkey. having considerable
headache on going to bed I took Mass Hydrgysi &
Tuesday 20th This morning about
8 o'clock it rained heavily and was
accompanied by a hard blow
with severe thunder and lightning
it continued until sometime after
daylight and continued cloudy
at 9 A.M. we started from Camp No.
15 it then commenced drisling but
did not continue long. my medicine
opperated finely. I had much diffi
culty in crossing one of the Creeks
after getting my horse over I found
my self in a thicket on a steep
bank I dismounted and cut my
way through with a knife,
until I got out on the prairie

when I was taken sick at my stomach and commenced vomiting brought on no doubt by the exertion I had used in getting through the bushes. The perspir-ation flowed freely, and continued to do so all day which was a great relief to me. during the heat of the day I spred my overcoat under a tree and took a fine nap. saw numbers of wild Turkeys both old and young some of the men told me that they had seen numbers of Buffalow and I went on their trail saw much sign but did not get to see them after riding a number of miles saw one wolf and made him scamper at a great rate. Shatty and Bellow saw ten Elk and I am inclined to believe these

were the Buffalo of the men come into Camp no 16 about half past four. had more venison & turkeys brought into Camp.

Wednesday 31st Clear Ther at 3 PM 95° had a fine breeze from the S. East allday Childers & Peter arrived with our mail from the Fort they left there on Friday night and as they were returning on the Verdegris they were attacked by some drunken Indians who wished to rob them and one of them stabbed Peter in the forearm and made an ugly wound about three inches in length his arm is now much swollen and the wound filled with unked-thy granulations had flaxseed poultice applied and Childers

sprained his hand striking one of them
I received but one letter and that was
from home dated June 24th left Camp
No 16 at 6 A.M. passed over a fine
piece of prarie and crossed two
creeks with but little difficulty.
and arrived in Camp No 17 at 1 P.M.
More venison and Turkeys brought
in which has caused many
of the men to complain of
dirrhoea having stuffed so much
fresh meat having been fed
all along on salt meat. this
is 7 1/2 miles from our last Camp

Thursday August 1st Clear left Camp
No 17 at at 6 A.M. passed over several
Creeks found Buffalo sign getting more
numerous but old. nothing of importance
happened. The country over which
we are now passing is rolling and

scattered timber in different directions the soil is a red loom much the colour of brick dust, and the water of most of the creeks are coloured with so that the water is rather thick. Ther at 3 P.M 96° this is 6 miles from our last Camp.

Friday 2d Clear left Camp No 18 at 6 A.M. found much trouble in crossing creeks the banks being high and come into Camp No 19 at 4 P.M. being 6 miles from last Camp. about 1½ miles north east of camp on a high ridge there is a small mound having much the appearance of being thrown up by the Indians there I found a piece of a fossill bone I searched carefully in every direction but could find no more ~~could~~ I have procured a spade & pick I would have opened it but

they were busy using them all making crossings to the Creeks on our return. am in hopes of having

a chance of opening it. near the creeks there are deep ravines empty-ing some of which are about 60 feet deep. the stone is principally red sand.

Saturday 3d. Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 97°
left Camp No 19 at 6½ A.M. and encamped at 1 P.M. on a high ridge near a fine spring. avoided most of the creeks by keeping about one mile north of the line. the grass on these praries is very short ~~and~~ scarcely

a flower to be seen, birds rem-
arkably scarce. I saw specimens
of Hirundo rufa also Hirundo fulva
Turkeys very abundant we are getting
very tired of them having them
at all our meals. this is the first
day we have been without venison
for some time. the wagons traveled
to day 6¼ miles by the line 5 miles
large buffalo trails are to be
found all over the prairie mostly
north and south. they are of
great assistance to us in finding
crossings to the Creeks. some
of the buffalo sign quite fresh

Sunday 4th Clear Ther at 3 P M 100°
this has been an excessively hot
day but we had a fine sotherly
breeze all day remained in Camp
and put my things in order

took a bath at sunrise. Bellon the old Frenchman saw a buffalo this morning. more venison & turkeys brought in to Camp

Monday 5th Clear Ther at 3 P. M. 96°
left Camp No. 20 at 6½ A.M. had a number of deep Creeks to cross and some long hills to ascend and headed a number of streams. the grass we found thin and short buffalo sign numerous but old. we encamped at 4 P.M on a small stream 7 miles from our last Camp by the wagon road 10½. when we arrived in Camp we found that Mc'cauley was missing. in the morning he was given a chronometer to carry. guns were fired throughout the night so as to direct him to Camp.

Tuesday 6th Clear. Ther at 3 P.M. 102°
we determined to remain at this
Camp until satisfactory serch was
made for McCauley. Seven men
were sent in different directions
and about 11 A.M. Bellow & Kerls
returned with him. found
him striking in the wrong
direction and it was some
time before they could convin
him that he was wrong he
had evidently wondered round
the country many miles.
Lieut W. Capt P. and myself
started after breakfast
to look for a sight for
our next Camp returned
about ten A.M. and conclud
to remain where we were
until he finished taking ob
-servations. this being 4 5 mile

from the monument at
Bald Eagle Mounds

Wednesday 7th Clear Ther at
3 P.M. 103°. I started in the
morning to see if I could
procure some specimens
of birds but returned without
any. found it excessively
hot. Bellows saw a number
of horses feeding about
7 miles from Camp and
cuttles Osages. had our horses
tied to the wagon wheels at
night. McCauley has a relapse
of fever.
Thursday 8th Clear Ther at
3 P.M. 104° the air all
day was very dry and
hot and every thing appeared
heated but we had a

strong breeze from the South
I spent most of the day
getting my things in order
and preparing to start to
morrow.

~~Friday~~ 9th Clear Ther at 3 P.M.
102°. left Camp No 21 at 6½ A.M.
and encamped on a small
stream 5 miles from our
last camp on the line
I came across a Marmot
village, and tried to procure
specimens ~~but~~ ~~was~~ not
successfull found ~~numera~~
Owls with them (Syrnium
Cunicularia) I procured one
of them but it was moulting
so bad that I threw it away

Saturday 10th Clear Ther at 3 P.M.
103°. Left Camp No 22 at 6½ A.M.

and encamped on a large stream six miles by the line and 6 3/4 by the road. I saw several large wolves Canis nubilis & C, latrans. I started several deer, and passed through another marmot village. The first thing this morning I returned to the marmot village that I was at yesterday that was not success full in procuring specimens.

Sunday 11th Clear Therat 3 P.M. 104° It was a difficult matter to keep cool to day the air was so heated. I procured a number of shells took a bath in the creek

Monday 12th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 103° left Camp No 23 at 7 1/2 A.M. one yoke of oxen were missing and this detained us encamped at 2 P.M. on a small branch which was dry excepting a few holes. this is 8 miles from our last Camp by the road and six by the line however this is some distance north of the line. to days march has been over the greatest & most monotonous extent of level prarie over which we have yet travelled I saw 7 Buffalo. Bellow shot at two but did not kill them. however in the evening he killed one passed over a very large Mormot village. saw several wolves

Tuesday 13th Ther at 3 P.M. 103° left Camp no 24 at 7 A.M. and at 1 P.M. encamped on a small

stream of running water which
we find to be rather salt.
this is 8 miles by the road and
6. by the line. I saw numerous
Buffalo but not near enough
to shoot. found fresh Indian
sign which proved to be the
Delaware's that were at our Camp
at Bald Eagle mound. Bellow
& Alick were sent ahed to look
for water.

Wednesday 14th Clear Therat 3
P.M. 105° The surveying party
started early we had every thing
packed and ready to start and
waited until 8 O'clock for Bellows
& Alick to return but they not
doing so we crossed the Creek
and encamped ~~at~~ a spring of
fine water at the distance of

about 1/4 of a mile from Camp No 25
I rode ahead on the line not seeing any
thing of interest I returned to
Camp on my way I found a Caman
chee lodge pole that they had evidant
-ly dropped as they were going
south. Bellow & Aleck have not yet
returned and we are getting quite
anxious about them. This evening
we had a really game dinner it
consisted of Buffalo & Venison steak
Turkey soup, broilled Grouse, Young
Turkeys & Partrages. & fried Sun Fish
all hands had a good appetite
and we enjoyed it much. how
much some of our bon vivants
would have liked to have been
present. wolves were prowl
about our Camp at night and
keep up a great noise

Thursday 15th Clear Ther at 2 P.M 106° at 9 P M 105° This has been an excessively hot day although we had a fine breeze but the air felt as if it was coming out of a furnace. the atmosphere has been quite smoky all day and towards evening looked as though we should have rain but it all ended in wind. a large heard of Buffalo were near the Camp early this morning and the men were after them in every direction which soon started them. the surveying party started off and made preparations to bivouack there being no water a wagon was sent with a sufficiant supply and having left it returned

Lieut N. & I started after breakfast thinking perhaps we might get a shot at o' Buffalo after riding about 4 miles we saw them several miles ahead but we turned about thinking them too far off to give Chase we struck then for the line where we remained a short time and then returned to Camp Bellow & Hick returned early this morning and have had nothing to drink until last night and nothing to eat since they left until this morning and are consequently very weak. they crossed the Red Fork found the water very salt and could not find any fresh two Buffalo were Killed; this evening.

Friday 16th Clear Ther at 3 P.M 105° Last night the Camp was alarmed by the horses breaking loose their picket pins and running furiously & snorting and it was thought by many that Indians were about the horses were then caught and taken into Camp and fastened to the wagon wheels. I believe the stampede was caused by a wolf. The men seemed quite anxious to have a shot at the Indian but he was not to be found.

Sent a wagon with water and provisions to the surveying party. Bellow & Peter Collins started to the Red Fork to look for fresh water. Capt Folts & I took a ride in the afternoon thinking that we might

shoot something but returned to Camp empty after riding a number of miles the red Fork timber I should think was at least 15 miles south of us there is much of a sameness in this part of the Country hardly a flower of any kind is to be seen birds few ~~scarce~~ and moultings. received a communication from Isaac Smith in which he says that they are through the timber of the Red Fork and that to morrow they will be at the river they have but five gallons of water to last the party to night the team is now loading so as to start before day with provisions and water

Saturday 17th Clear Ther at 2 P.M. 107° & at 3 P.M. 106°

Spencer & Hickman were started this morning at 3 O'clock with provisions & water for the surveying party they returned about 7 O'clock this evening having been within a mile of the river received a note of much interest from Smith in which he says that they have found water and that they had provisions enough to last until tuesday morning at breakfast and that they had plenty of Buffalo meat drying nothing of interest occurred to day but every thing that we could rake & scrape together

that would hold water was got in order as we expected to pack water to the river as the water is perfectly salt. Spencer said the Prarie was on fire on the other side of the Red Fork there fore there must be Indians about. Shortly after I got in bed I thought I saw an Indian skulking near the camp I put on my shoes seized my gun and started in my shirt tail but saw nothing of him. this has been a tremendious hot day

Sunday 18th Clear Ther 104° at 3 P.M. about 10 A.M. Peter, returned to Camp accompanied by five Comanchee men & two women two of them

were Chiefs one was named O-hia-wak-kee and was the youngest of the two but was evidently the principal man they belong to the band called Paducah or Honey eaters. they staid sometime we tried to explain to them what we were doing and they gave us to understand that they were good friends we had some Coffee and bread bacon brought for them to eat the bacon they would not touch but the bread and Coffee they enjoyed much they laughed and said they could drink Coffee such as that all day until their bellies were very larg. we also

gave them molasses which they divoured eagerly. made them presents of vermillion and Tobacco they gathered the crumbs and what molases was left and placed all in a Coffee pot. they were armed with bows & arrows one had a rifle they left about noon shook hands for a long time and giving us to understand that their friendship should continue a long time and that they would speak well of us to their people.

Just as they left the surveying party hove in sight the reason for their leaving was on account of the Indians anoying them. having eat most of their provisions and

wanting every thing they laid their eyes upon they stole a number of the mens things who were green enough not to watch them one took a blanket and left his old one in its place. Mr. Mchew gave out on the road his feet being sore Mr. Smith & Bellow remained with him until we sent them horses they say that the prairie west of the Red Fork is on fire. Buffalo and deer are abundant there. They are a dirty set of looking fellows and look much as if they had been working hard in a dusty road as their things were

wet with perspiration and any thing but their original colour. One of the Indians was about carrying off his Blanket which Pat on discovering run immediately for his rifle and he would have shot at the fellow had not Mr. Smith seen him and forbid him at, the same time ordering him to go after the fellow and demand his blanket on his doing which he immediately gave it up. This evening we struck our tents, and got every thing packed so as to start before day.

Monday 19th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 102° I arose this morning at 3 O'clock after having enjoyed a comfortable bivouac. we however did not get started until daylight and the train was stopped several times by the tires coming off the wheels the weather having been so dry not even having dew for some time that the wood work has shrunk very much. after going 3 miles we struck the timber about sun rise this timber consists of small black jack's very thick and the soil very sandy with some little grass through this we passed 5½ miles. On the prarie to the north just as we were entering the timber we saw a large heard of Buffalo. Through the timber

the train passed along the line taking advantage of the opening we then struck a praire over which we passed six miles then we come to the bog hole upon which the surveying party were bivouacking when they were visited by the Indians. this is the only fresh water between our last Camp and the Red Fork we met but one Buffalo Cow & two Calves in crossing the praire while here on Saturday & Sunday there were hundreds to be seen to night the fires on west side of the river are raging at a furious rate. they look beautifull yet awfull and we are fearfull that we shall have to turn back as there is some doubts about our obtaining grass and water for our Cattle

as Bellow & Childers have just retur-
-ned after having been out on a hunt
for fresh water & grass and they
found but one small spring of
fresh water not however enough
for our animals. and no grass
so it looks rather gloomy for us
to get farther west.

Tuesday 20th Clear Ther at 3 P.M.
95° this looks more like comfort.
for the thermometer for the last
fourteen days at this hour has
ranged from 102° to 107° and the
change is quite sensible. This
morning I rose at the crack
of day and was quite cold from
the wind blowing from the
north west. could not get
warm until I walked about
wrapped in my blanket the
Therm was 76° but the wind was

very piercing. after breakfast Capt Potts, myself, & a party of men started for the river which is a about a mile from here after leaving Camp we passed over a number of steep barren sand hills and near the bank of the river there was a level piece covered with elegant grass. the bank of the river on this side is not more than five feet high. while on the opposite side there is a high bluff. the river is nearly dry reduced to a small stream about ten feet wide and six inches deep the water is as salt as brine Capt Potts thought it impossible for the party to go on and was in favor of returning. I however was not satisfied with the reconnoisance

and after returning to Camp
not getting off my horse
they asked me to alight
I told them no as I wished
to ride to a sand hill
below and did so and found
that the prarie immediately
west of us was burnt but a
few miles to the north
& south it was not and
there appeared to be Creeks
that had stopped the progress
of the fire on my return
finding that they were
getting every thing ready
to start I asked Lieut W
which way he was going
he immediately replied What!
have you any doubt about
the possibillity of our going
ahead? Iff any one has I dont

leave here to day until sufficient examination of the country has been made. I replied that I could not tell as I had not been over the ground but that I knew that there was grass to be seen both north and south and that I thought that there was water both north and south. he then said he would remain where he was. on the return of Mr Smith with the surveying party he told Mr Smith he wanted him with a number of men to ride out on the line about eight miles and hunt water and grass. nine of them started about eleven O'clock. and returned about ~~six~~ and reported favorable having found plenty

of grass and water. then Lieut
W said in the morning we would
go on so things were got ready
towards evening it become cloudy
and there was some thunder
and lightning and before morning
there was some rain.
Wednesday 21st Left Camp
No 26 at 8 A.M. when we awoke
this morning it was cloudy
and there was a little rain
and cold it cleared shortely after
starting the wagons followed
the line the bed of the river
where the line crossed measured
one mile and a half. Bel[illegible]
killed a buffalo at 12 M.
we arrived at a creek on
which we encamped thinking
it the same that Mr Smith
had been at yesterday but

it proved to be only a branch the water we found strongly impregnated with Glauber salts. fortunately for us we packed water from our last Camp. Robert and one of the men after hunting found some good water the wagons come 10 1/2 miles from the last Camp it was 9 1/2 on the line from the river to this point the prarie is entirely burnt, and we now see it burning at a long distance to the west. This creek is full of a large soft green turtle. also long terrapins. Cat & buy fish.

Thursday 22^d Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 96° left Camp no 27 about 7 1/2 A.M. passed over a level pra

of prarie and found nearly all the streams dry at last found some water in holes and encamped being 6 37/100 miles from our last Camp I rode off by my self to examine the Countrey and to the north of us some distance found a stream of fine running water then rode off to the south west to some curious looking hills which I found to contain great quantities of gypsum the view from the top of these hills is very extensive I struck from here about north and met the wagons they had come to a halt on a branch with some holes of standing water and there Lieut W. concluded to establish the meredian.
Kirks killed a fine Horse

Friday 23rd Clear Ther at 1 P.M. 104° at 2 105° several of the men were sent a hed to look for water but returned saying that they had found none after riding several miles. Indian sign plenty going west but few buffalo 3 were killed to day. two of them however too far from Camp to bring in the meat. The other was killed late this evening and will be sent after in the morning. wolves continue numerous. Marmot villages are found in different directions and a number of them have been shot but have all fallen into their holes which are very deep and they cannot be got out. plovers (Fringa Bartramii) are very numerous they are in immense flocks.

Saturday 24th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 104° Lieut W. having obtained a satisfactory series of observations last night the party commenced the survey this morning. He and I rode to the timber and on our way hunted water after following numerous large Creeks which were all dry I at last found some at the head of one near the timber it consisted of a number of holes and a fine spring comming out of the Gypsum rock most of it however is slightly impregnated with Glauber Salts. The water at this Camp has affected nearly all hands and there are numerous complaints of diarrhoea one of the men has just dug a hole

into which the water flows quite fast and is much purer and cold. Robt Childers, Bellow, Peter and Alick were sent ahead this morning on the line to hunt for water - have not yet returned. The Buffalo that was shot last night was brought into Camp this morning is now drawing. We have plenty of fresh meat and game.

Sunday 25th Clear some few clouds to be seen in different directions Ther at 3 P.M. 102 at 12 M. 105° The wind to day has been at nearly every point of the compass, and to night looks much like rain. This afternoon J. Smith and I took a walk to the

Gypsum hills. I collected a few plants. Another portion of Buffalo was brought into Camp this morning is now drying. The party that started yesterday returned at noon found plenty of water and grazing on the North Fork Buffalo in abundance

Monday 26th Cloudy during the night it blew furiously and just before day commenced raining this however stopped just before sun rise. Ther at 2 P.M. 70°. packed our things and about eight O'clock left Camp No 28. Woodruff and I started ahead and had the spring cleaned about the noon the wagons arrived it was then raining and it rained quite heavy during the time we were pitching our tents shortly after getting fixed the surveying party coming in well drenched.

Tuesday 27th It rained all last night and showery all to day looks much as though it would continue it is quite cool and extra clothing is quite comfortable Ther at 3 P. M. 72° this has been a day for mending clothes reading, eating & sleeping had a fine fire built in the evening which was very comfortable.

Wednesday 28th Rain during the night and showery until noon it then cleared and the surveying party started to work Ther at 3 P. M. 83° we had a heavy shower at 6½ P M. nothing of interest occurred to day

Thursday 29th Showery through out the night and cloudy until about 9 A.M. The surveying party made several attempts to start but each time were stopped by the rain they at last got under way.
Capt Potts & I rode out to hunt a rode for the wagons to morrow by going round the prairie but found it almost impossible without going a round about course of several miles the country being so broken. As we were going along I espied a Bear with three cubs I called to Potts and we started in pursuit he shot her but wounded her slightly I then shot her with Buck

shot but only wounding her she escaped in a ravine near by and hid herself in the brushes the Cubs took to to a tree I shot one with my pistol the rest we let run. we then struck down through the timber to the line and met the surveyors on a small prairie after passing through the timber by bearing to the south we struck a large prairie which lies between the it and the North Fork of the Canadian in these prairies there is a ridge of drift sand hills on these there are many grape vines and plumb bushes also mock orange vines. The Cross Timbers here consist of small

black jack and the soil is very sandy. After shooting the Caib I was draging him to pack on Davy but he did not like the smell of Bear. and commenced walking off when I seized him by the tail when he let drive with both his feet and fortunately struck me in the thigh making a pretty severe bruise. After catching him and administring punishment he packed it to Camp without any ~~fat~~ resistance. I shot and prepared three specimens of the Malvilus forficatus

Friday 30th Clear Ther at 3 P. M. 80°

Moved Camp to the North Fork of the Canadian following most of the way the line through the Timber then

striking the prarie on which near the River we found very fine grass, passed through a large mormot village I was not able to get a shot at them Before we got into Camp I saw a large herd of Buffalo feeding abt two miles ahead and I determined to give them chase I immediately relieved my self and Davy of all useless trappings so as to make his load as light as possible and started. I rode into the timber so as not to start them too soon and to try and sneak up to them I got within a short distance of them when one spied me and immediately started the heard and we took after them full tilt I tried to head them so as to drive them back into the

but could not succeed they
would take to the timber I shot
at them with my pistols but
did not succeed in killing one
the timber being thick I was forced
to give up the chase. I should
think they numbered about
300 old and young. I then turned
back to Camp which I found
on the edge of a pond near the
river here we found fine water
which to us was really a treat
after drinking water impregnated
with Gloubbler salts, also plenty
of fine grass and timber for
fires several Deer & turkeys were
brought into Camp to night
it has now been a long time
since we have been without
game of some kind and we
are now finding it more

abundant. This Camp is eight miles from Camp No 29. it is quite cool to night and we have a fine fire.

Saturday 31st Clear and at daylight very cold extra blankets were req-uired last night. Packed our things and started from Camp No 30 at 8 ~~A.~~ M. I was about starting ahead with Woodruff when one of the horses led Davy off and they had a run in catching him ~~they~~ I started and after riding about two miles I saw some Buffalo and determined to give them chase I wounded one just before they got to the Timber Lt Woodruff and Bellow also gave but W. horse after getting near and getting a ~~small~~ smell of them ran off and

he could not get him near again. I then gave up the chase rode into the timber a short distance, saw, a heard of six or eight Deer but not near enough to shoot rode out into the prarie again and near the river saw some Buffalo they were comming up and I got behind some trees so as to hide myself but not in time for they started off but soon stopped running and I followed them concealing myself behind some hills I soon found that there were more of them there being eight bulls. Watching a good opportunity I gave them chase Davy gained on them fast and soon I got a shot and wounded an imm-ense bull still he ran

furiously now we were approach-
-ing the timber and I headed
him and took another shot
but he gave me the slip and
got into the timber and I followed
him a fast as I could and it
was a brake neck piece of
busness the timber being
thick and scrubby. I gave
him a load of buck shot
and still he kept on but
now and then stopped and
looked at me then went
ahead again Davy was as full
of the Chase as I and was very
eger to get near him I at last
got another shot which I
think struck him in the belly
and he commenced to run much
slower and after getting to the
top of a little knoll just as

I was about discharging another pistol he turned suddenly around kurled up his tail snorted shook his head and made at me I immediately pulled the rein so as to put Davy behind three small Black jacks in doing which he Stumbled and the jerk discharged my pistol which was in my right hand and cocked in my left was the reins and my gun the ball passed through Davys neck and I at first thought it had struck him in the head but he got up and run the Buffalo on the discharge of the pistol turned about and it was the last I saw of him. Davy after running a short distance

stopped and looked round and
then started again and this
was the last I saw of him
I followed this trail for a
long distance finding that
he was taking a streight
course for Camp I gave up
the hunt thinking that he
had gone there and fearing
that they seeing the wound
think the Comanches had
got me and create a stam
pede I walked very fast
and when I got here found that
Davy had not arrived started
Bellow and Mather to our last
Camp and they soon returned
saying that the old camp ground
was full of Comanches, I
immediately came to the con
clusion that they had Davy

I borrowed Lieut W. horse and struck back to hunt Davys trail having two of the men to accompany me but by the time I got there it was time to turn back. ~~turn~~ without making any discovery on my return here I found two Camanche men and women they are a dirty look ing set the women were old with their hair cut about an inch long put me much in mind of my old friends in the Alms House the men let on to be very friendly and said they had not seen any thing of my pony and should they find him they would send him to Camp but

this I do ~~not~~ believe
some of our Indians that
have just come from ~~the~~
Camp said they had not
seen any thing of them
built a fine fire to night
for it is quite cool.

Sunday Sept. 1st Clear This morning
at daylight it was quite Cold
Ther 53°. at 3 P M 76°. Soon after
breakfast I started with three
Indians Childers, Ned & Alex
to hunt Davys trail this we
did and traced it along in
the timber some miles until
it struck the Prarie at the
point where I first entered
in the morning not far
from where I left his trail
yesterday we found his saddle

blanket judgeing from the appearance of his track he must have been running and how he managed to strike such a streight line through a piece of timber he had not been before is a pusseler to me for early in the morning I did not go far in before I turned about on the prarie again and then rode to the south some distance when I met the Bouffalo and enter ed the timber at a point several miles distant. after dinner ~~Clint~~ Ned and Childers started again and on their return this evening said that

they struck his trail again
and that he kept along
the edge of the timber
they also went to our last
camp but saw no sign
of him there. more Deer
and Turkeys to day all
hands are now living
on game. The Venison
is very fat and fine
The Camanches have moved their Camp
Monday Sept 2d Clear Ther
at 3 P.M. 84° Mr Smith
started with the surveying
party having made preparation
for a bivouac a wagon is sent
along containing provisions bedding
& they are to continue until
the line crosses the river the
last time then set up
their marks and return

as this is to be our last Camp west ~~and~~ as the appropriation will not hold out to ~~enable us~~ to finish this fall. The reason for our not keeping Camp moveing with them is on account of our black smith making charcoal Lieut W. has determined to return by this river I set out this morning with Heals and Sdalty to strike my trail to sarch for my belt pistol that I lost on Saturday last but after a long and tiresom hunt returned to camp without finding it. Raiper and Ned were sent off this morning to strike

the pony trail where they left it yesterday and to go back to our old Camp on the other side of the Timber at the Gypsum Hills. they returned this evening having been there but could not find a trace of him I have no doubt now but that the Comanches have him they saw some of them on the Sand Hills.

Tuesday 3d Clear and warm Ther at 3 P M 92° I have now taken a small horse called Scott the one Mr Burgess rode last year I rode several miles this morning alone on the prarie on the other side

of the river but not seeing any thing of the surveying party returned thinking it not safe to go any farther prepared some birds in the afternoon. More Game this evening Deer and Turkeys. The Buffalo have left with the Indians only stragglers are now to be ~~seen~~

Wednesday 4th Clear until 7 A.M it then commenced clouding over and we thought it prudent to move Camp so as to get on high ground moved on the prarie about a quarter of a mile off but the rain all passed round. I rode a short distance but could see nothing of

the surveying party. There are several fine springs running out of the bank of the river there are some holes in the river that contain fine large Cat fish these fish are different from ours. This can hardly deserve the name of a river as it is now dry and the water only standing in holes. The men are complaining much of diarrhoea
Thursday 6th Clear Therm at 3 Pm 85° Lieut W. I and two of the Indians started to ride over to a couple of mounds about 5 or 6 miles from camp on the other side of the river so as to have a fine view of the country at the same time to see if we could see any thing of the surveying party we had not

got more than a mile and a half from Camp when we met them returning so we turned back with them they have been ten miles from this Camp and there crossed the North Fork for the last time, as the river from there takes a notherly course after having put up suitable marks they struck back and we are now getting every thing in order to return by this river and get the topography of the country which will make it doubly interresting. Childers was brought back in the wagon having an attack of his enterry. They report

that they saw much game and Mr Smith killed a Buffalo water they found rather scarce and not good much of it tasting of the Buffalo urine having been used much by them

Friday 6th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 81° Left our last Camp No 31 on the line at 7½ A.M. on this side of the river as far as we have come to day which is 11¾ miles consists of sand hills and dry swamps filled with Cattails Smith Woods for some distance on the oppos-ite bank of the River also along the bed of the same passed several old Comanche Camps the river was dry water occasionally in holes

and these filled with fish we had quite a bottle with two garfish. saw but little game. the place that we are encamped to night is near a hole of water on a level piece of ground and the mus-quetoes are almost devouring us. the water is salty no doubt but from the Buffalo use. rained this evening

Saturday 7th Cloudy and foggy until 9 A.M. then clear and warm Ther at 3 P.M. 82°
after going about two miles this morning we crossed the River which we found dry and got on the ridge on the opposite side where we found quite a

different country for on this side the soil is a rich loom and on the opposite side sandy. here streams are numerous but at present most of them dry. the timber on them is mostly good. about five miles from the river is a timbered ridge from which these streams come and I think is the divide between the two rivers. Shortely after crossing the river we passed a recent Comanchee Camp not more than two days since they had left it no doubt but this is the camp of those that visited us. We left Camp no 1 of the return this morning at 7½ a.m.. and pitch

our Camp on a high piece of prarie near a large branch in which the water is standing in holes and it rather salty near camp there is fibrous Gypsum the grass is excellent I have seen but little game to day, got here about 2 P.M. being 12 miles from No 1 I rode down the river some distance in search of good water but could finde none I shot a number of small snipe, and collected some fine flowers. There are a number of old Camanches & Osage camps near here

Sunday 8th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 87° To day I have spent in Camp having much to do, had stewed Oisters for dinner. We were visited this evening by three Osages belonging to Clermos band they were on foot and said that there were quite a number of them on the other side of the river beyond the timber about 12 miles distant that they were just returning home having been out fighting the Pawnees they however had not gained much and had lost a number of their horses from hard riding one of them is a fine looking fellow the others are only

possable their blankets are in a sad condition. they have concluded to spend the night with us, and are now amusing us with their nasal songs. perhaps before morning they may fall in love with one of our horses. we are going to send them to the cooks fire to sleep and give the guard strict orders to watch them close.

Monday 9th Cloudy and rain until half past six a.m. much rain has fallen during the night it was accompanied with heavy thunder & lightning. Crim-

Osage friends did not disturb any thing last night and when it come on to rain crawled into the lumber wagon. the rain having put out the fires we did not get started from Camp No 2 until 8½ A.M. Mr Smith and I struck off on a hunt we followed up the stream that we were encamped on and then kept near the timbered edge cutting across the stream heads we at last saw two deer and Mr S got a shot about 120 yds off but missed we then shot at some turkeys Running and both missed them after riding some distance

saw two more deer but
we did not get shots at
them something having
frightened them. most
off the streams that we
have crossed to day have
had fine running water
in them and what is
singular Mr Woodruff tells
me that they have crossed
but one that had water in
this I have found the case
with most of the streams
in this country they run
some distance and then
sink they have very fine
Timber near their source
& for some distance also
some fine Cedars. Mr C. had
a wolf chase, then a
number of Buffalo about

eight coming in sight he gave them Chase and made old Baldy stir his stumps after running them some distance he wounded one but he got away I could not get Scott near them we rode ahead and I got on top of a high ridge and seeing a herd of Buffalo hailed Mr Smith and he started in pursuit there were 14 of them and he had a fine Chase but was not successful in killing one. We are now encamped on a branch in which the water is standing in holes it is 12 miles from our last Camp. The Grass is fine. Ther at 3 P.M 85°

Tuesday 10th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 88°
left Camp No 9 at 7½ A.M. saw numerous
herds of Buffalo they were going
north one of them was shot by
Peter Collins and several were
wounded by the men. in
one heard there were upwards
of one hundred I could not get
my horse near them. about
two miles from Camp there
are a number of high mounds
the tops of which are covered
with marble and some distance below is
the red sandstone. This marble
is the best building stone
I have seen in this
country buffalo nearly
all day passed several
Indian Camps one of which
a Camanche Camp was
not more than two

days olds, the Prarie over which we run to day was covered with fine green grass quite tall and crossed some fine streams of water. the surface was slightly undulating after going ~~about~~ 15 miles we encamped on a small stream about 3 P. M.

Wednesday 11th Clear Ther at 3 PM 90° Mr Smith Bellow & I started immediately after breakfast to take a hunt. passed some old Indian Camps and struck over to the river here we found turkeys one of which Mr Smith shot and when he went

to pick it up it was
not there it evidantly
was seized by a wild Cat
after passing down the river
a short distance farther
and were about watering our
horses Mr. B. spied a Wild
Cat he immediately dis
mounted so as to get a
shot at him, when another
came near lighting on
his head jumping from a
tree above and he got a
shot at neither, we found
a few holes of standing water
and quite a number of fresh
Buffalo prints made this
morning we followed them
across the river among
the sand hills but were
not able to see any thing

of them as I was riding along carelessly, smoking my pipe something jumped from under my horses feet and as quick as lightning jumped first on one side then on the other and now I being off my guard was thrown and my back considerably injured for it was some time before I could get up. we then struck into the prairie and rode along the edge of the sand Hills until we struck the river here the prarie runs to the bank and on the opposite side there is timber which has not been the case heretofore the river makes a considerable bend and the

water is running. we
crossed and entered the
timber and followed a fresh
Buffalo trail for some
distance then wishing
to strike the Prarie took
an opposite direction
and struck what we took
to be a dry creek but which
afterwards proved to be
the river after riding
up the bed of the stream
some distance. the River
here was very narrow
The timber through which
we passed was thick and
heavy and put ~~me~~ in mind
of the Arkansas bottoms
on striking the prarie saw
the wagons some distance off
They left Camp no 3 at 8 Am.

and encamped on a stream of fine water 13 miles from our last Camp

Thursday 12th Clear Ther at 3 P.M 90° my being very sore I had to take up my quarters in the instrument wagon. The country begins to be more broken the grass rank and green, streams more numerous with plenty of good running water, we were detained by them having to make crossings some of the banks being quite steep, had to double teams. did not arrive in Camp until 4½ P.M although we left Camp no 5 at 8 A.M. encamped on a fine stream and were nearly devoured by musquetoes.

Friday 13th Foggy early in the morning then Clear and Ther at 3 P.M. 89° to day there was hardly a breath of air stirring for this reason it felt excessively hot although not indicated by the thermometer the Cattle suffered much also the men we left Camp No. 6 at 8 A.M. and were detained crossing some creeks also by the heat we did not arrive in Camp until 4 P.M. having come but Eleven and a half miles the country over which we have passed to day has been gently undulating soil rich & plenty of water & grass this is a beautifull Camp on the the edge of a

fine large Creek and half
a mile from the river
the grass is so fine and the
situation of the Camp so good
that we have determined to
stay here over Sunday.
musquetoes anoy us considerably
before arriving at this Camp
we met a Delaware, Shawnee
& Indian boy with several
ponies. The Delaware spoke
English said his name
was Captain Hill that
he had a trading house
on Little River where
he left this morning at
about 10 O'clock and that
they were going after Salt
He said the main Canadian
was about 10 miles distant
that not far from us on

the ridge was the Calafornia trail made by the Fort Smith Emigrants this last spring year ago. Mr Smith brought in with him quite a number of fine fish some of them look much like Herring in shape what they are I do not know the rest are what they call trout & speckled Cat fish. Kerls caught a tremendous Cat fish and it was as much as he could do to get him into camp. they brought me some specimens of birds and shells, the River has plenty of running water in it. I hope this is the last day I have to ride in the wagon for it

is very tiresome and rough

Saturday 14th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 93° I prepared some birds, and overhauled my plants found the most of them wet and damaged and some entirely spoiled, they must have got wet last Sunday night by the rain getting into the wagon I regret not having discovered it before. Capt Potts Smith's & McCabe all went a fishing and brought back with them a considerable number. My Horse & three others are missing and we are fearful that those three Osages have followed us and stolen them as several of the men have been out hunting them all day and have returned

without them. More game was brought into Camp to-night

Sunday 15th Foggy early this morning and on clearing was very hot Ther at 2 P.M. 87° I spent the day getting my things in order and drying my plants, This evening Fred has brought in the missing horses he found them about 5 miles up this Creek so that all our suspicions were groundless. Scott has I think been bitten by a snake as his head and neck are tremendously swollen I have drenched him and had the swelling well rubbed.

with strong lineament

Monday 16th Early in the morning foggy and Cold but when this disappeared it got quite hot although there was a fine breez left Camp No 7 at 7½ A.M. having numerous ravines to cross the wagons did not come into Camp until 4 P.M. having only travelled 9½ miles the Camp is situated on a fine large running stream with good timber and grass the country over which we have passed to day has not been so good the soil has been rather thin grass short and creeks dry. as the wagons were about starting

this morning I rode off in
a S, East direction about 3 miles
and got on the dividing ridge
between this and the main
Canadian I think at that
point the two rivers are
not more than 8 miles apart
at this point Little River
takes its rise on this
ridge I struck the California
trail made last spring one
year it is a well beaten road
I rode along it several
miles I saw two deers
& a number of wolves.
Shultz & Kerls saw near
the River bank about five
miles from this Camp
a number of Beaver lodges
and plenty of fresh sign
The swelling on Scotts neck

has nearly disappeared
and I rode him to day
Ther at 3 P.M. 93°

Tuesday 17th Clear Ther at 3 P.M.
84 left Camp no 8 at 8 A.M. and
after crossing numerous ~~dry~~ creeks
some of which were very deep
came into Camp at 3 P.M. having come
Eleven miles passed through much
black jack also prarie the road
was very good. The red sandstone
makes its appearance on the
surface occasionally. we
are encamped to night
near a hole of fine water
in a small piece of prarie
surrounded by small oak timber
since we have been here there
has been some fine fish
caught principally what
they call prarie trout. we

a fine breeze all day. Saw several Deer & Wood Ducks (A, Sponsa) Woodruff is suffering from poison his head is tremendiously swollen. Shultz saw a Buffalo Cow & Calf

Wednesday 18th Clear, Ther at 3 P M 96° but we had a fine breeze from the South. Left Camp No 9 at 8 A.M. and were until two O'clock passing through small scrub Oak timber in some places it was very dense and water but in two places and in holes which our Cattle nearly consumed The river from last night's camp was about 3 miles distant and running North East making a great bend which we have cut off by going nearly East and we are now encamped on the bank of it. the soil is rich grass good and abundant The musquetoes are now devouring

us. The surveying party come but half way with their work having been detained by the timber. we have come to day ten miles and a half. I saw four Deer. their sign along the river is very numerous

Thursday 19th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 88° Mr Smith & party started back to survey opposite Camp. Lieut W. has determined to remain here should Capt Potts not be able to find a site for Camp within two or three miles he started immediately after breakfast with Peter Collins but not finding water rode along the trail which we met yesterday afternoon several miles & returned by the river he was gone until 4 O'clock this afternoon. The surveying

party returned between 1 & 2 Oclock in the morning I prepared some birds in the afternoon I Started out to fish but was not successfull not finding good places the water being shoal I walked up the bed of the river about three miles did not return until dark.

Friday 20th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 89½ Left Camp at 8 A.M. and struck the Indian trail which appears to lead in the right direction from its appearance I think that it has just been travelled by a large number of pack horses most likely they have been Camanchee traders we have not to day passed over more than two miles of prarie

the rest of the way has been
through scrub Oak timber
water scarce and we are encam
ped to night in an open piece
of this timber near a small
hole after having sent ahead
and finding no water. I fear our
cattle will suffer for the want
of it we have to deny ourselves
and cannot wash this day
we have come but 9½ miles
musquetoes abundant

Saturday 21st Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 89
We had this morning to send
a pioneer party ahead to follow
the trail and cut a road for
the wagons the timber being
very dense the character of
the timber is improveing
and we to day have passed thro

some fine White Oak and
Hickory & Post Oak - we have
passed through about 5 miles
of timber the rest of the way
7 miles ~~has~~ been principally
over fine prarie found scarcely
any water having rode to the
Creek where we intended
to encamp but we found no
water. We rode ahed for sever
-al miles but finding none
struck for the river which
was about two miles distant
and encamped on the bank
in a piece of prarie with
tremendious rank grass
did not get here until
sun set
Sunday 22^d Clear Ther at 2 P.M.
91° Capt Potts & I took a ride
down the river in the

morning this has been quite
a warm day
Monday 23rd Clear Ther at 3 P.M 91° left Camp
No 12 at 8 A.M our corse was
principally thro open prairie
crossed numerous Creeks
some of which only had
water in holes these Creeks
the crossing of which cau-
sed much delay and
late in the afternoon finding
no water when we happened
to meete two Seminoles
going out hunting they
told us where we might
procure some. struck
into the timber which
was quite thick crossed
several dry creeks then
struck a small prairie of
about three or four Acres

where we encamped there was but one hole with water in and pasture poor the Seminoles Camped with us. We find that we have got too far South that the stream on which we are encamped is a tributary of Little River. and tomorrow we will have to strike about north East to get to the North Fork. these Indians say we are about four miles from the settlements and a days ride from Wewoca & two and a half miles from Fort Edson we did not get into Camp until Sunset, we have come 8½ miles to day

Tuesday 24th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 93° Left Camp No. 13 at 9½ A.M. and struck through the timber got on the divide but striking too much East had to Cross some ravines passed through much timber and some prarie at 2 P.M. having again struck a large prarie and finding water determined to come into Camp as the cattle had but little to eat or drink at the last Camp we have come but 5⅓ miles, Bellow did not come into Camp last night and has not yet made his appearance Roach & Hickey are also missing

Wednesday 25th Clear Ther at 3 P.M. 92° Our cattle fared well by the fine grass and looked full so we got an early start this morning and have passed over prarie but have had numerous creeks to cross this is a beautifull & rich section of country and from the hog sigh and horses that we have seen show that we are on the borders of the settlements. We met a large party of Seminoles going out on a hunt. they told us that we were some distance from Wewoca and that the trail they were would not do for us to follow

for there were many deep
ravines to cross and much
of it was rocky. from them
we got some honey which
they had taken it was packed
in a fawn skin and was
dipped out with a large
leather wooden spoon
we gave them some Tobacco
they asked Peter Collins
what we were doing whether
we were making a road and
were going to drive them
out of their country again
Childers and Agin were sent
out this morning to hunt
for Roach and Hickey returned
this evening having found
them. The old Indian that
was at our camp on Monday
night brought us some

today the wagons come 7½ miles

sweet potatoes & beans he was rigged out in his best and had his daughter with him she was anything but good looking.

Thursday 26th Clear. Soon after leaving Camp this morning we met a party of Seminoles going out on a hunt they consisted of 3 men and 3 squaws & two children they told us a pretty good road to Nemoca but would have some deep Creeks to cross that it would take a person to ride there from Sunrise to about 4 O'clock we this day passed through some prairie and considerable timber much of which was thick black jack and in going through

which I was so unfortunate to loose my Thermometer which I carried in a leather pocket by the side of my saddle it must have been jerked out by a limb of a tree I did not miss it until 3 O'clock & then started back along the trail but could not find it the wagons having passed no doubt but they covered it. we came to day 8½ miles This camp No 16 is in a small piece of the prarie surrounded by timber

Friday 27th Clear & warm we this day have been passing through timber but the last few miles it has been large and open and

we are now on a high
piece of prarie between
two small creeks. Soon
after leaving Camp this
morning we crossed a large
creek fine running water
& rock bottom (Red sand stone)
I ammused myself here
fishing for some time
and caught quite a number
~~w~~hich all hands enjoyed
much for supper
We have come 9 miles
to day. This afternoon we
met a party of Indians
returning from a hunt having
their pack horses loaded
with dry deer meat and skins
they said that Wawoca was
not far and that they
were going there to night

& that the road was good and prarie all the way.

Saturday 28 This morning it was quite foggy we started early and have passed over an elegant ^rich^ Country some of which however is verry rocky I struck this morng the first house but no one at home this was near the river I left the party about one O'clock and started to Wewoka which I struck in about an hour & enquired of an old Seminole squaw about Capt. Dent but could not make her understand I then started to another house there I found the

oled Indian we met yesterday
with the hunting party he
asked to get off my horse
and take a seat he was
making himself as cool
as possible having nothing
on but a Calico hunting
shirt and was lying on a
bear skin spread on the
ground. here I got some
fine peaches I talked
with him for some time
neither one understanding
the other asked him
about Capt Dent then
about the white mans
store he at last appeared
to understand me and
gave me to understand it
was close by he took the
trail and I followed passed

(a primitive building)

The Wewoca town house
he then pointed to the trail
which I was to follow
which I did and after
going some distance and
trying to find out from
some Indians not succeeding
I returned stopping at
the old mans and getting
a bits worth of peaches
then started for Camp
which was two miles
from the Wewoca Creek
It was dark when I got
there I made their mouths
water when they smelt
the peaches. This has
been an excessively hot
day and the Cattle have
suffered much. We have
come to day 11½ miles

Sunday 29th Clear & hot Capt Potts & I started for the store taking Peter Collins to interpret towards the store we found was about 6 miles from Camp on the hill on the east side of the Wewoco creek which is a large Creek with a sandstone bottom I found that I was within half a mile of this place ~~last evening~~ the first man I saw was Bellow he was glad to see us said he had been waiting there several days That Capt Potts had told him to keep the trail and see where it went to he said he had followed it and found it was going in one direction and the wagons in another and

he knew that they could not come together that he had returned to the wagons twice and the last time the Captain told him to go back to the trail and see where it went to he spoke a kind of angry and I was a kind of angry also and I was determined to obey his orders he had followed the trail and that it brought him to this store We saw young McCummings brother of the one that keeps the store he asked us to alight and have our horses fed which we did after remaining here some time and overlooking some newspapers we asked him to return to Camp with

us and dine which he did. numerous Indians visited the camp to day among them was a girl who was deaf and dumb she is daughter of the Wewoca chief.

Monday 30th Clear and warm left Camp about 8 A.M. Lieut W and myself rode ahed of the train to the store and waited its arrival which was about 11 A.M. having come 7½ miles they moved on after getting a supply of Corn and fodder we remained and took dinner with Mr Cummings which we enjoyed having some fine butter & fresh bread. at 3 P.M. we left we overtook the

wagons as they were leaving the timber we encamped about 3 miles in a large prarie on the banks of a good stream 8 miles from the store the most of the road passed through timber which was of large groath such as White, Black, Post, Red Oak, Hickory & Walnut. some of the road was quite rocky (Red Sand Stone)

Tuesday Oct 4th Clear warm started in good time and arrived in Camp about 1 P.M. having come 11 miles principaly over prarie encamped on a fine stream I wrote a letter to Aunt Harriet as Mr Smith was to start in the morning for the fort

met Mr Cummings on the road he was just returning from Fort Gibson did not get much news.

Wednesday 2d Clear and hot Mr Smith left this morning at sunrise for the Fort with Peter Collins the wagons got to Monarca Barnetts at 11 a.m. he telling us that there was no water between his place and the North Fork we encamped on a stream near by as to morrow we are to have a long march this is but 6 miles from our last Camp. Young Mr Cummings overtook us and is going with us to the Fort

Thursday 3rd — Foggy until after sunrise we arose and had breakfast by daylight and at sunrise we were on the prairie under way Mr Le and I rode ahead to the River at Sixth Fork Town. was Introduced by him to several of the store keepers there. there are three stores kept there and do considerable trade not far from here there is a larg mission took dinner with Mr Baldwin when at it Capt Potts arrived the teams got there at 1 P.M. we went ahead with them and crossed the river which stream is now so larg that I should hardly know it at the

Ford there is a ledg of slate rock extending across the stream we encamped on the opposite bank, there not being grass we had to get fodder for the animals. Here for the first time on this tramp I saw the Osage apple (Maclura) growing. Lieut Neill & Capt Dent arrived about sundown they left Fort Gibson this morning we could not persuade them to remain with us so after tea Lieut W & I crossed the river and spent the evening with them. Lieut N. has just been promoted and is on his way to Ft Washita Capt D. is on his way to Wewoca this is 14½m miles from our last Camp

Friday 4th Clear & cool in the morning early but soon became very hot. Lieut Jo & I crossed the river before sunrise to Lieut A. off while there Lieut W was seized with colicy pains and was quite sick throughout the day. Capt Dent and Lt. F. crossed the river and spent the day with us. Mr Smith & Potter arrived about 9 P.M. bringing us all letters. I received from home. Tillie & Sallie Roberts. Dr Jerrott & Uncle Charles he communicated the death of Aunt Fanny.

Saturday 5th Cloudy & cold with a high easterly wind left Camp about 6 1/2 A.M the first 3 1/2 miles was through timber and the road was heavy being sandy then struck the prairie the road over which was first rate we encamped on Elk Creek about 1 P.M. the wagons having come over 13 miles

Sunday 6th Changeable and cool this morning there was quite a heavy frost remained in camp most of the day in the afternoon I took a ride to the sulphur spring which is about three miles north of

this Camp it was a fine
spring and the water
strongly impregnated

Thursday cloudy and some
little rain left Camp shortly
after daylight and at 3 P.M.
came to a halt having come
18 3/4 miles over rolling & a
good road this evening we
caught a few fish
Shortly that seine from
The Chainman did not
Chain up to camp but
left off 3 miles back
it is cool this evening
and is raining some
This morning some one
of the men put a plug
of tobacco in the tea
kittle and we had to take

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Tuesday 8th This morning we arise up and started at daylight it was then raining Quit hard I rode ahead and arrived at the fort by guard mounting. the wagons got there by eleven We found our report to Mr Stevenson found most of the officers absent. We are encamped about one mile S East of the Fort and our men are already forming the ... at the ... of the ... and ... have been ... off today